

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 26, 2001

CONTACT

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City Awards Summer Youth Program Funds

Indianapolis -- Indianapolis youth will participate in a variety of recreational, cultural, employment, and volunteer activities this summer, sponsored in part by City of Indianapolis grant funds. The City's funding is awarded in conjunction with the Summer Youth Program Fund.

The Summer Youth Program Fund, a collaboration of 13 funding sources, recently awarded more than \$1.5 million to 127 organizations that will serve 34,000 Marion County youth this summer. The activities are intended to provide safe and positive experiences for youth 4 to 19 years old at little or no cost. Grants are awarded to programs in four areas: residential, daily, enhancement, and youth employment.

"The partners behind the Summer Youth Program Fund collectively support and enhance the summer for Indianapolis youth," said Mayor Bart Peterson. "Many young people in this city will experience a host of new opportunities because of this partnership."

Funding sources, including the City of Indianapolis, that collaborated in 2001 are: Ackerman Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Cristel DeHaan Family Foundation, the Efroymson Fund, Hoover Family Foundation, The Indianapolis Foundation, The Indianapolis Foundation Library Fund, Irwin Financial Foundation, Lilly Endowment, Inc., Moore Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, and the Pacers Foundation.

The City's grant funds, which will be administered by the Department of Metropolitan Development and total approximately \$125,000, will support 17 programs that will serve nearly 2,000 youth. Award recipients are listed below:

Broadway United Methodist Church: \$10,000 will support academic initiatives, character education, and recreational development that celebrate the unique elements of African-American culture.

Campbell Chapel: \$2,500 will fund education and recreation programs. Participants will conduct a special service project at Sheffield Manor, a neighboring nursing home.

Christamore House: \$ 9,000 will support the Summer Splash program, which offers indoor and outdoor enrichment and education opportunities. The program addresses gang violence, sportsmanship, hygiene, and volunteerism.

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Community Alliance of the Far Eastside, Inc.: \$ 9,000 will fund academic, recreational, and cultural activities, as well as provide employment for junior counselors.

Damar Homes, Inc.: \$ 6,645 will support the Summer Opportunities for Learning program, which provides mentally disabled youth with academic training, skill building, field trips, and recreational activities.

East 10th United Methodist Children and Youth Center: \$10,000 will support the Summer Days for Youth program, which offers artistic, recreational, cultural, and education programs.

Foster Care Luggage: \$ 4,500 will fund computer training and workforce development initiatives for youth in Marion County foster care.

Girls, Inc. (Mid North Center): \$6,000 will support career and life planning programs for high-risk girls. All programs will concentrate on math, science, and technology.

Girls, Inc. (Fountain Square Center): \$ 6,000 will fund career and life planning programs for high-risk girls. All programs will focus on Spanish-speaking opportunities.

Hispanic Education Center: \$9,000 will support multicultural, artistic, and education programs. Participants also will conduct a beautification project at School 96.

Marian College: \$10,000 will support the National Youth Sports Program. Youth will participate in academic, athletic, and life skills programs. An accelerated reading program also will be offered.

Philharmonic Orchestra of Indianapolis: \$ 5,000 will support Strings and Jazzy Things, a tuition-free program that offers instruction on string and jazz instruments.

Project SEED: \$ 8,000 will fund intern opportunities for Marion County youth in the teaching and development of innovative math programs.

Theatre on the Square: \$ 4,355 will support the production of "Stage Door."

Vivian Smith House: \$ 5,000 will fund employment opportunities for teen parents and provide workforce development training.

Youth Job Preparedness Program: \$10,000 will fund employment opportunities and life skills training for eastside youth.

Young Audiences: \$10,000 will support art opportunities through the mediums of music, visual arts, dance, and theatre. Professional artists will provide instruction.

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